

TMN-Gideon Lincecum Chapter Meeting
March 20, 2010
Winedale Historical Center
Winedale, TX

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 am by President, Dave Redden.
Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Executive and Operating Committee Reports

President – Dave Redden

- New members interest survey –Our new members have a wide variety of skills. Dave has distributed a spreadsheet with results of the interest survey so that members with specific skills can be identified. Dave suggested that committee chairs invite as many new members as possible to join their committees.
- SugarSync – Dave has signed us up for an online data storage service with 30 GB storage space and file sharing capability. This will allow our chapter to be in compliance with Sarbanes Oxley's requirement for document retention. Space is available for us to store personal files as well.
- Winedale and UT partnership agreement – It will be at least 2 months before we have an agreement with Winedale, UT and the Wildflower Center about ways we can assist them with our volunteer efforts.
- Sarbanes/Oxley compliance - Randy Reddemann will report when he returns.

VP– Cindy Rodibaugh

Cindy will be chairman of the Programs committee, in compliance with our Bylaws.

Treasurer – Larry Hilgers

- Larry reported that we have 71 member "units," (individuals or couples) who have paid their dues.
- The 2010 budget was presented in its current draft. Executive committee will approve the final budget when all input is received.
- An item for Administrative costs, to include SugarSync and annual meeting support, for example, was added.
- Current funds on hand are \$12,860.

Committee Reports

Training - Mary Jones

- Make up date for Soils/Hydrology is likely to be March 31. Mary will send out notice when this is confirmed. (After the meeting, the date was changed to Thursday evening, April 8)
- Jerry Frazier will join the committee to work on next year's class.

- The notes of each year's Training Coordinator will be stored on SugarSync for the benefit of future coordinators.

Recruiting - Judy Deaton

- Judy has contacts for 22 potential members for next year's class.
- We considered the possibility of not having a class next year in order to concentrate on programs, and volunteer projects but decided to continue recruiting and have another class. At some point our chapter may want to split.

Membership – Dave Redden (substituting for Martha Koslosky)

- Martha's new e-mail address is koslosky@alpha1.net.
- For 2011 the procedure for dues notices will be as follows: The notice for the upcoming year's dues will be sent out one time only by e-mail in December. Dues can be received by mail or at the Holiday party. If dues are not received by March 31, the member's name will be dropped from the active roll. Inactive members can return to active status at any time by paying the dues for the year.
- Members should turn in their hours to Martha as soon as they have enough volunteer and AT hours to recertify.
- Mary Evelyn Sorrell received her initial certification pin and certificate. Elisa Henderson will receive hers by mail.

Program - Cindy Rodibaugh

- Today's program, wildflowers and native grasses
- April 17 – Burton Cotton Gin Festival. We will have a booth where we will put up our new tent. This is a volunteer opportunity. We can offer information to the public, recruit new members and promote the Indian Creek Nature area.
- April 24 – Birding, for 2010 Training class members only.
- May 15 – Roland Wier, Mark Klym: Wildscapes
- October – State Master Naturalist meeting

Advanced Training – Dave Redden

- March 27 – Evaluating Habitat for Wildlife, for members only, at Fayette Lake. Larry Hysmith will be the speaker.
- The best way to learn about upcoming Advanced Training opportunities is to join the Master Naturalist listserv.
- Join other organizations to receive their announcements: Kay Prairie Conservancy, or Coastal Prairie Partnership, for example.

Host/ Social – Carol Montgomery

- Next Top Tenner Social at Winedale is planned for May 29. Mary Evelyn Sorrell will confirm date.

Historian/Library – Cindy Rodibaugh

- Cindy has prepared a spreadsheet of items in the library. She will send it to Jan to be put on the web site.
- The scrapbook for the previous year is complete. This year Cindy is using a different format; she encourages members to submit entries for a journal.

Volunteer Projects – Ed Koslosky

- *Indian Creek Nature area at Burton Cotton Gin – Carol Montgomery*
On the March 13 work day mulch was added to the trails, invasive plants removed and trash picked up. Carol Montgomery has a swing that will be hung on a branch and she will provide some wooden benches. Daniel Lewis and Carol will work toward identifying plants and flag the individual plants that need to be preserved.
- *Native Prairie Restoration – Charlotte von Rosenberg*
 - Signs that will be presented to owners of prairie remnants have been printed and delivered. Charlotte proposes that they be presented to owners at the water conference in September.
 - Some seed collection for the NRCS was done in October, 2009, but we need to pursue how we can do a more comprehensive effort next year. A suggestion was made to engage Tom Solomon of the Coastal Prairie Partnership to do a program for us on harvesting and planting seeds of native plants.
 - Brenham Elementary School native prairie – Cecil Rives: The area has been sprayed and a 65% kill of all plants has been achieved. More spraying will be done until all plants are eradicated. Seeds will be planted with a seed drill in April. Cecil is helping to identify rocks in the butterfly garden area. Cecil will be the contact from our chapter to the board of the BES Outdoor Learning Area.
 - Bluebird Trail – Sue Solari: There are 8 nest boxes at BES, all registered with Cornell Nestwatch. We have cleaned, numbered and mapped them; and assigned one to each third grade class at BES. Our committee has given 13 presentations to a total of >250 third graders from BES and Krause Elementary. Teachers and students have been enthusiastic – the last group of students wrote Thank You notes to each of us.
 - Charlotte will check with the high school to see if we can make use of their greenhouse for getting grass seeds started.
 - Jerry Frazier will make bluebird nest boxes for members.
- Pioneer Unit of Texas Herb Society – Belinda Weatherly
There will be a work day on Thursday, March 25 at 1:30 pm.
- Houston toad survey – Dave Redden
The weather is not suitable for toad surveys now.
- Christ Lutheran Day School – Dave Redden

Dave has donated birdhouses. He requests donations of milkweed starter plants for the butterfly garden.

- Lutherhill Camp – Larry Hilgers
Larry showed photos of the 80-acre camp which offers numerous volunteer opportunities. Trails need to be constructed and trees identified and labeled. A wildscape is planned for the chapel area. Other projects: rainwater harvesting, bluebird and martin houses, leading nature hikes. Cindy Rodibaugh is also participating.

Communications – Jan Redden

Send your news to Jan for the next newsletter. Judy Deaton is working on a picture roster of all chapter members.

Next meeting will be Saturday, May 15 at Winedale.

Submitted by Jan Redden, substituting for Secretary, Monterey White